

## WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

- ◆ Power washing blasts away filth from impervious surfaces. Some power washers use detergent, sand, or simply water.
- ◆ This filth is then carried down the gutter into the storm drains, picking up an array of pollutants along the way.
- ◆ Fine-grained sediment particles, detergent, anti-freeze, oil, paint, and trash can then be transported to our creeks and streams.
- ◆ Once deposited in our creeks and streams the pollutants can have adverse effects on the environment.



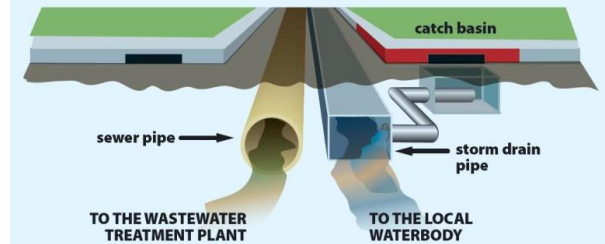
## WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?



- ◆ Contain and collect wastewater using vacuum pumps, booms, berms, portable containment areas and pumps.
- ◆ You can power wash directly to grass on your own property if there is no ponding or soapy residue.
- ◆ Avoid using cleaning products that contain hazardous substances, these can turn wastewater into hazardous waste (hydrofluoric acid, muriatic acid, sodium hydroxide).
- ◆ Place inlet protection in front of storm drains.
- ◆ Contact Colorado Springs Utilities to dispose of collected waste water in the sanitary sewer system.

## WHY SHOULD I CARE?

### Storm Drain Systems are Separate from Wastewater Systems



- ◆ In Colorado Springs the *storm sewer system* leads directly to our streams and creeks. The *sanitary sewer system* is treated by CSU before it is released to our waterways.
- ◆ Any pollutant that reaches a storm sewer inlet is considered an illicit discharge, which could be a fineable offense.



## RESOURCES

- ◆ **Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)**  
Low Risk Discharge Guidance: Discharges From Surface Cosmetic Power Washing to Land: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/water-quality-permitting-policies>
- ◆ **Discharge of Process Wastewater from Power Washing Operations**  
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/>
- ◆ **CDPHE Permit COG607000**  
Commercial Washing of Outdoor Structures Permit:  
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/clean-water-commerce-and-industry-permitting>
- ◆ **Colorado Springs Utilities**  
719-448-4800

**Report spills or dumping to the Spill Hotline: 719-491-6096**



Report Spills & Dumping  
*For Clean Waterways*

719-385-5980

Learn more at:

<https://coloradosprings.gov/stormwater>

## STORMWATER NEEDS YOU... MORE WAYS TO HELP:

There are many ways to help protect the water in our community as well as for those downstream. Here are a few tips to keep in mind:

- ◆ Prevent pollution, remember: *Only Rain Down the Drain!*
- ◆ Monitor your curb/catch basin or ditch by removing sand, grass clippings, debris and litter
- ◆ Pick up after your pet
- ◆ Use the right amount of fertilizer at the right time (not before a rain storm!)
- ◆ Wash your car at a commercial carwash or on the lawn with environmentally-friendly soap, not on a hard surface
- ◆ Dispose of hazardous materials properly
- ◆ Maintain your vehicles to prevent leaks
- ◆ Sweep grass clippings back onto the lawn, or compost them
- ◆ Put trash, including cigarette butts, in its place...not in a creek or storm drain.



## Pressure Washing: Wastewater Management



**Report Spills & Dumping**  
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